

month. On-site after-school tutoring is available and shuttle bus service takes the students directly from three schools to the Chino Experience Teen Center after school for alternative programs. The requested funds will support teen programs with a special emphasis on teens living within the low-income and moderate-income areas of the community.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 2847

Account: Office of Justice Programs, Byrne Discretionary Grants

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Rio Hondo Community College

Address of Requesting Entity: 11400 Greenstone Avenue, Santa Fe Springs, California 90670

Funding Secured: \$300,000

Description of Request: Rio Hondo College operates its Public Safety Center with Police and Fire Academies to train cadets and Federal, State, and local first responders from over 115 agencies. The Public Safety Center was recently recognized by the Department of Homeland Security as a "Regional Homeland Security Training Center." In tandem with this recognition, Rio Hondo College recently pledged \$520,000 toward the acquisition of additional land adjacent to the Fire Academy to train Federal, State, and local first responders in tactics to best manage the possibility of a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, or Explosive event (CBRNE) in Southern California. Los Angeles County has pledged \$150,000 toward the Center, and the City of Santa Fe Springs is prepared to contribute up to \$300,000 toward the Center. Training is already under way at the expanded Center. In order to meet the rising demands for training from L.A. County first responders and Rio Hondo students at the Center in order to prepare for natural and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, or Explosive (CBRNE) disasters, the training center needs the appropriate equipment to train for underground and tunnel scenarios, lighting to train 24/7 and to simulate nighttime operations, and a classroom trailer now that the center is designated as a Department of Homeland Security approved training center.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, on Monday, June 15, 2009, I was not present for 4 recorded votes. Please let the RECORD show that had I been present, I would have voted the following way: Roll No. 336—"yea," Roll No. 337—"yea," Roll No. 338—"yea," Roll No. 339—"yea."

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

SPEECH OF

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 15, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, as a member of Congress I am proud to participate in

the celebration of Caribbean American Heritage Month. It has been a long and slow road to the recognition of the contributions of Caribbean Americans since the establishment of the Caribbean American Heritage Awards in 1994. This declaration is well overdue since the establishment of the Caribbean American Heritage Awards 15 years ago and I am honored to be here to recognize the influential contributions of Caribbean Americans to American society. I would also like to commend my colleague Congresswoman LEE for her commitment to the recognition of the achievements of Caribbean Americans through her sponsorship and reintroduction of legislation to celebrate June as Caribbean American Heritage Month. Because of Congresswoman LEE's hard work President Bush issued a Proclamation on June 5, 2006 declaring June as Caribbean American Heritage Month. For over 100 years Caribbean Americans have enhanced American culture and diversity. Influential Caribbean Americans include Harry Belafonte, Shirley Chisholm, Sydney Poitier, Alexander Hamilton, and Malcolm X just to name a few. The influence and impact of Caribbean Americans extends far beyond this unexhausted list of notable Caribbean Americans. They have been leaders in public service, sports, entertainment, the arts, and many other fields. More importantly, Caribbean Americans are everyday men, women and children who aim to positively impact communities across America. Over five million Americans proudly share their Caribbean heritage. The Caribbean region remains an important regional partner due to its close proximity to the United States—evident in its collaborative work and strong economic, diplomatic, and strategic ties with the United States. During Caribbean American Heritage Month, we celebrate the contributions of Caribbean Americans to our country, and the common bonds and culture shared by the United States and Caribbean countries. America has thrived as a cultural melting pot, due in part to the spirit, morals, and skills of Caribbean Americans. I can not think of a better way to recognize and commemorate Caribbean Americans and the Caribbean region for their contributions to the United States than the celebration of Caribbean American Heritage Month. I, along with my colleagues, am honored to be a part of this celebration. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

HONORING WWII WOMEN AVIATORS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Lorraine Zilner Rodgers and her remarkable service to our country during World War II. Ms. Rodgers dreamed of becoming a pilot at a time when the field of aviation was dominated by men. Undeterred, she overcame gender barriers to pursue her goal. After graduating from the University of Illinois, she worked building military aircraft, using her salary and limited spare time to learn to fly. She eventually attained a private pilots' license.

While pursuing her dream to fly, she learned of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP)

program and became inspired to join the war effort. More than 25,000 women applied and after completing a rigorous training program, Ms. Rodgers was among the 1,074 women who earned their wings. In the 17 months that the WASP's were operational, she and her fellow pilots flew more than 60 million miles.

Among her many duties Ms. Rodgers tested and ferried planes making necessary repairs to military aircraft. She displayed tremendous courage and bravery as her duties were strenuous, exhausting and at times even life threatening. Thirty-eight women lost their lives while serving and Ms. Rodgers was nearly one of them. While she was completing a routine testing flight in Waco, Texas, the plane she was flying abruptly went into an inverted spin. She made every attempt to right the aircraft to prevent destroying the plane, but as she neared the ground she was forced to abandon the aircraft. She was barely able to deploy her parachute before hitting the ground as she had delayed ejecting in an effort to save the plane. After recovering from her injuries, she was informed that her plane's rudder had been cut in an act of sabotage. Although such acts were rare, they were examples of the hardships women pilots had to overcome as they faced antagonism from male pilots who adamantly believed that women did not belong in the aviation field.

On Dec. 20, 1944, the same day Ms. Rodgers risked her life, Congress voted to disband the WASP program determining that it was no longer necessary as male pilots were becoming available to fill the jobs the women were performing. Despite the end of the program, Ms. Rodgers did not abandon her passion. She went on to work at the Glenview Naval Air Station and flew as much as possible.

In the 1970s she became deeply involved in a campaign to gain veteran status for WASPs. Despite resistance based on gender prejudices, they finally succeeded in 1977.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Lorraine Zilner Rodgers and other pilots from the WASP program who remain an inspiration for young women and men alike. She is not only a hero but a symbol of what can be achieved when goals are pursued and barriers overcome. She continues the legacy set down by generations of ambitious women by honoring her talent and maintaining a steadfast commitment to her dreams.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2847, the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBERT E. LATTA.

Bill Number: H.R. 2847, Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Account: Commerce; NOAA—Operations, Research and Facilities.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Bowling Green State University.